

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for signaling an Integrated Messaging System (IMS) on an Internet Protocol (IP) based network to deposit a message, comprising:
 - means for sending a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE request to the IMS indicating a message deposit action;
 - means for receiving a corresponding SIP message from the IMS agreeing to participate in the message deposit action; and
 - sending an SIP acknowledge message to the IMS confirming receipt of the corresponding SIP message.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for depositing the message in a destination mailbox.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the deposited message includes voice data.
4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the deposited message includes video data.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the SIP INVITE request includes a Require header following the SIP Require header protocol extension mechanism.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the Require header includes at least a first and second parameter, wherein the first parameter indicates the message deposit action to the IMS and the second parameter is a call forwarding parameter.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the call forwarding parameter identifies whether the message was deposited unconditionally or conditionally based on a busy signal condition of a called party or a no answer condition of the called party.

8. An apparatus for signaling an Integrated Messaging System (IMS) on an Internet Protocol (IP) based network to retrieve a deposited message, comprising:

means for sending a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE request to the IMS indicating a message retrieval action;

means for receiving a corresponding SIP message from the IMS agreeing to participate in the message retrieval action; and

means for sending an SIP acknowledge message to the IMS confirming receipt of the corresponding SIP message.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the IMS sends and receives messages from a secure Network Server (NS).

10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising the means for retrieving the deposited message from a mailbox corresponding to known account information.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the known account information includes an account identification which has been authenticated.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the known account information includes an account identification which is not authenticated, and wherein the method includes the further step of prompting a user for a password.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising means for asking the user for a user name and a new password when an incorrect password is entered for the prompted password.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the known account information includes no account identification, and wherein the method includes the further step of prompting a user for a user name and password.

15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the retrieved message includes voice data.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the retrieved message includes video.

17. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the SIP INVITE request includes a Require header following the SIP Require header protocol extension mechanism.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the Require header includes at least a first parameter, wherein the first parameter indicates the message retrieval action to the IMS.

19. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein an IMS account user is notified when the deposited message is ready for retrieval.

20. An apparatus for signaling an Integrated Messaging System (IMS) on an Internet Protocol (IP) based network to deposit a message and retrieve the deposited message, comprising:

means for sending a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE request to the IMS indicating a message deposit action;

means for receiving a corresponding SIP message from the IMS agreeing to participate in the message deposit action;

means for sending an SIP acknowledge message to the IMS confirming receipt of the corresponding SIP message;

means for depositing the message in a destination mailbox;

means for sending a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE request to the IMS indicating a message retrieval action;

means for receiving a corresponding SIP message from the IMS agreeing to participate in the message retrieval action;

means for sending an SIP acknowledge message to the IMS confirming receipt of the corresponding SIP message; and

means for retrieving the deposited message from the destination mailbox, wherein the destination mailbox corresponds to known account information.

21. A method of signaling the deposit of a message with an integrated messaging system on an internet protocol based network, comprising:

transmitting a session initiation protocol INVITE request to an integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol INVITE request indicating a message deposit action;

receiving a session initiation protocol agreement message from the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol agreement message corresponding to the session initiation protocol INVITE message, the session initiation protocol agreement message also indicating an agreement to participate in the message deposit action; and

sending an session initiation protocol acknowledge message to the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol acknowledge message confirming receipt of the session initiation protocol message indicating an agreement to participate in the message deposit action.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising depositing a message corresponding to the session initiation protocol INVITE request in a destination mailbox.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the deposited message includes voice data.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the deposited message includes video data.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the session initiation protocol INVITE request includes a Require header according to the session initiation protocol Require header protocol extension mechanism.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the Require header includes a first parameter and a second parameter, wherein the first parameter indicates the message deposit action to the integrated messaging system and the second parameter is a call forwarding parameter.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the call forwarding parameter identifies whether the message was deposited unconditionally or was deposited conditionally based on a busy signal condition of a called party or a no answer condition of the called party.

28. A method of signaling the retrieval of a deposited message on an integrated messaging system on an internet protocol based network, comprising:

transmitting a session initiation protocol INVITE request to the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol INVITE request indicating a message retrieval action;

receiving a session initiation protocol agreement message from the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol agreement message corresponding to the session initiation protocol INVITE request, and the session initiation protocol agreement message indicating agreement to participate in the message retrieval action; and

sending an session initiation protocol acknowledge message to the integrated messaging system confirming receipt of the session initiation protocol agreement message.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the integrated messaging system sends and receives messages from a secure Network Server (NS).

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising retrieving the deposited message from a mailbox corresponding to known account information.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the known account information includes an account identification which has been authenticated.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the known account information includes an account identification which is not authenticated, and wherein the method includes the further step of prompting a user for a password.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of asking the user for a user name and a new password when an incorrect password is entered for the prompted password.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein the known account information includes no account identification, and wherein the method includes the further step of prompting a user for a user name and password.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the retrieved message includes voice data.

36. The method of claim 30, wherein the retrieved message includes video.

37. The method of claim 28, wherein the session initiation protocol INVITE request includes a Require header following the session initiation protocol Require header protocol extension mechanism.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the Require header includes at least a first parameter, wherein the first parameter indicates the message retrieval action to the integrated messaging system.

39. The method of claim 28, wherein an integrated messaging system account user is notified when the deposited message is ready for retrieval.

40. An apparatus for signaling the deposit of a message with an integrated messaging system on an internet protocol based network, comprising:

means for transmitting a session initiation protocol INVITE request to an integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol INVITE request indicating a message deposit action;

means for receiving a session initiation protocol agreement message from the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol agreement message corresponding to the session initiation protocol INVITE message, the session initiation protocol agreement message also indicating an agreement to participate in the message deposit action; and

means for sending a session initiation protocol acknowledge message to the integrated messaging system, the session initiation protocol acknowledge message confirming receipt of the session initiation protocol message indicating an agreement to participate in the message deposit action.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising means for depositing a message corresponding to the session initiation protocol INVITE request in a destination mailbox.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the deposited message includes voice data.

43. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the deposited message includes video data.